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US ARMY'S TARDEC AND BAE SYSTEMS MOVE CLOSER TO ARMED ROBOTIC GROUND VEHICLES

ARV Robotic Technologies (ART) Test-Bed On Display At AUSA 2005 Annual Meeting "Powering The Army" Booth # 3725

Proof-of-Concept Platform Demonstrates Latest In Maneuverability and Survivability For Unmanned Ground Vehicles

Washington, DC**,** October 3, 2005 – Armed Robotic Vehicles (ARVs) rolled ever-closer to reality as a dynamic new platform, developed in a public-private collaborative effort, was unveiled today at the defense industry's biggest conference, AUSA's 2005 Annual Meeting being held at the Washington Convention Center.

The ART (ARV Robotics Technology) platform is proof-of-concept technology that will provide future force unmanned vehicles with increased maneuverability and survivability. The robotic platform is being displayed for the first time at an industry consortium's "Powering the Army" booth, number 3725, on the main show floor.

The technology has been developed as part of the US Army's ART ATO (Army Technology Objective), through a collaboration of the US Army's Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) and BAE Systems, in cooperation with subcontractors General Dynamics Robotic Systems and Omnitech Robotics International. It is part of the Operational Requirement Document (ORD) for Future Combat Systems (FCS), which includes a network of manned and unmanned platforms that will supplement existing tanks and fighting vehicles.

"The real advantage of the ART ATO is that a whole array of future force robotic technologies will be developed and integrated on the platform," said Jeff Jaster, ATO Manager, TARDEC. "From reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition to assault capabilities, this ATO lays the groundwork for a variety of technologies that can be used in reducing the risks in the development of the future unmanned ground vehicles."

The ART demonstration platform is autonomously controlled through an advanced mobility suite, and features an array of sensors, including reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition (RSTA) sensors, acoustic sensors, and intrusion detection radar. A remote weapon station, anti-tamper sensor suite, advanced tactical behaviors software, and an embedded diagnostic/prognostic capability have also been integrated into the demonstrator. Experiments are planned for September 2007 and March 2009 to showcase the robust nature of the technologies.

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TARDEC is headquartered at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, Michigan and is located in the heart of the world's automotive capital. Part of the Army Materiel Command's Research, Development and Engineering Command, TARDEC is the nation's laboratory for advanced military automotive technology. TARDEC's mission is to research, develop, engineer, leverage and integrate advanced technology into ground systems and support equipment. TARDEC's 1,100 associates develop and maintain vehicles for all US Armed Forces, numerous federal agencies and over 60 foreign countries. TARDEC continually pushes the state-of-the-art in technology areas of survivability, mobility, intelligent systems and maneuver support and sustainment, making sure that it fields robust equipment that meets the performance needs of the soldier.

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